Remarks

The present invention is a method of distorting an acoustic signal and a method of enabling a user of a first communication terminal to selectively distort an acoustic signal, input into the first communication terminal in accordance with a distortion profile during a call with a user of a second communication terminal. A method of distorting an acoustic signal in accordance with an embodiment of the invention includes selectively distorting the acoustic signal by a user of a first communication terminal in accordance with a distortion profile such as, for example, illustrated in Fig. 8 where profiles 117-120 may be selected from phonebook 23 to provide a distorted acoustic signal transmitted from the first terminal to a second terminal during a call with a user of the second communication terminal and wherein the first communication terminal contains the phonebook 23 containing a plurality of selectable options 261 including a distortion profile selection option 262 permitting selection from a plurality of distortion profiles including the distortion profile used to provide the distorted acoustic signal. See Fig. 15.

Claims 1-6, 9-15, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by USP 5,559,792 (Bottoms et al). These grounds of rejection are traversed with respect to newly submitted claims 20-38 for the following reasons.

Independent claim 20 recites:

> "A method of distorting an acoustic signal comprising:
> selectively distorting the acoustic signal input by a user of a first mobile communication terminal in accordance with a distortion profile to provide a distorted acoustic signal transmitted from the first terminal to a second terminal during a call with a user of the second communication terminal; and
> wherein the first communication terminal contains a phonebook including a plurality of selectable options including a distortion profile selection option permitting selection from a plurality of distortion profiles including the distortion profile used to provide the distorted acoustic signal."

Independent claim 21 recites:

"A method of enabling a user of a first mobile communication terminal in accordance with a distortion profile to selectively distort an acoustic signal, input to the first communication terminal during a call with a user of a second communication terminal, comprising:

the user of the first communication terminal inputs the acoustic signal thereto;

a processor of the first communication terminal distorts the acoustic signal input thereto according to a selection in the first communication terminal, where the selection is user defined or selected;

the processor controls transfer of the distorted acoustic signal to a communication network which transmits the distorted acoustic signal to the second communication terminal: and wherein

the second communication terminal receives the distorted acoustic signal and uses the distorted acoustic signal as an output acoustic signal in the second communication terminal to the user of the second communication terminal; and

wherein the first communication terminal contains a phonebook including a plurality of selectable options including a distortion profile selection option permitting selection from a plurality of distortion profiles including the distortion profile used to provide the distorted acoustic signal."

and Independent claim 30 recites:

"A mobile communication terminal comprising:

an input interface and output interface;

means for distorting an acoustic signal input through the input interface and for output of a distorted acoustic signal through the output interface in accordance with a distortion profile; and

a user interface where the user can select distortion selections for specifying the distortion of the input acoustic signal from a phonebook containing a plurality of selectable options including a distortion profile selection option permitting selection from a plurality of distortion profiles including the distortion profile used to provide the distorted acoustic signal; and wherein

the means for distorting includes a processor which distorts the acoustic signal inputted from a user of the mobile phone according to a user selection of the distortion profile selection option including the distortion profile in the communication terminal and the processor transmits the distorted acoustic signal for transmission to a second communication terminal."

Each of independent claims 20, 21 and 30 substantively recites selective distortion in acoustic input signal input by user of a first communication terminal in accordance with a distortion profile to provide a distorted acoustic signal transmitted from the first terminal to a second terminal during a call with the user of the second communication terminal with the first communication terminal containing a phonebook including a plurality of selectable options including a distortion profile

selection option permitting selection from a plurality of distortion profiles including the distortion profile to provide the distorted acoustic signal. This subject matter is not anticipated by Bottoms et al. While Bottoms et al do disclose a voice modifier 130 which is described at the bottom of column 1 and the top of column 2 and furthermore at the bottom of column 4 and the top of column 5 to provide modification of voice input from a telephone 20, there is no disclosure of the aforementioned subject matter. As may be seen from Fig. 1, a plurality of inputs 10, 12, 14 and 21 are provided to the simultaneous voice and data modem 100. However, the voice input from telephone 20 does not meet the foregoing limitations.

Moreover, there is no basis in the record why a person of ordinary skill in the art would be led to modify the teachings of Bottoms et al to arrive at the subject matter of newly submitted claims 20-38.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Clancy et al (USP 5,802,164). These grounds of rejection are traversed with respect to newly submitted claims 20-38 for the following reasons.

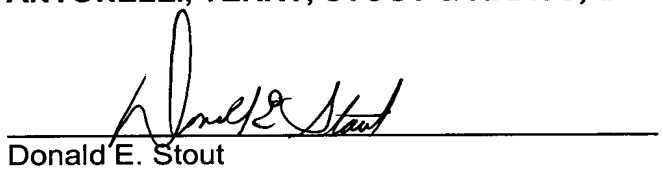
Clancy et al discloses a system of controlled telephone sound enhancement to eliminate effects of interference and noise. Clancy et al, like Bottoms et al, does not disclose the subject matter of the newly submitted claims 20-38 as described above with respect to the rejection of anticipation predicated on the Bottoms et al reference.

Moreover, there is no basis in the record why a person of ordinary skill in the art would be led to modify the teachings of Bottoms et al to arrive at the subject matter of the dependent claims.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of, either by telephone discussion or by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Dep. Acct. No. 01-2135 (1030.40906X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



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